

Tale *Feathers*

March
2007

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Inside

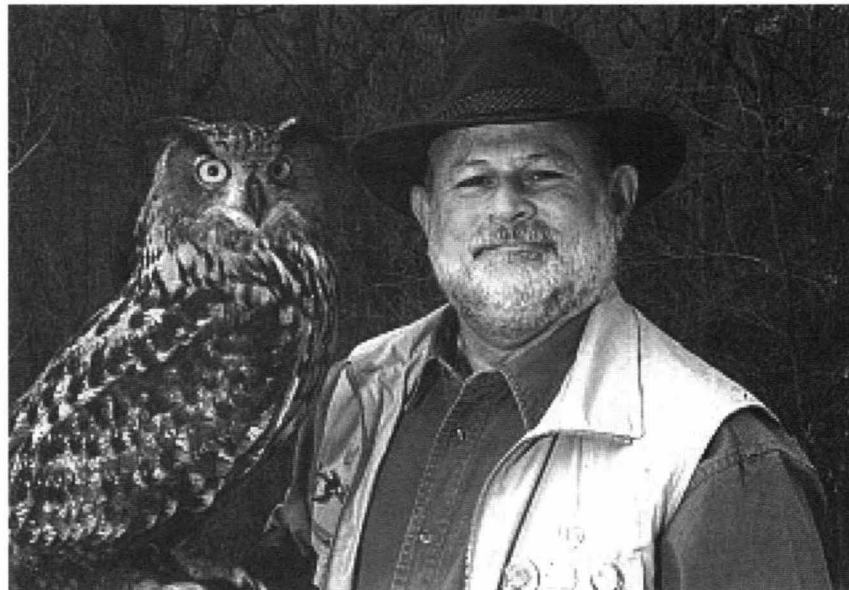
Annual Dinner
Announcement
& Registration
Form

March-April
Bird Walk Details

March Program
Info: Purple
Martins!

Beginner Walks
in Forest Park

....and MORE



St. Louis Audubon Society Annual Awards Dinner

Friday, April 13th

*Walter C. Crawford, Jr., Executive Director
of the World Bird Sanctuary*

We are pleased to announce our 2007 Annual Awards Dinner will be hosted by Orlando Gardens at 8352 Watson Road in Webster Groves. Awards will be presented for Conservationist of the Year, Educator of the Year and Volunteer of the Year. The evening will conclude with a talk from our keynote speaker, Walter C. Crawford, Jr., founder and Executive Director of the World Bird Sanctuary.

Founded in 1977 in a handful of run-down buildings on loan from the Army, the World Bird Sanctuary (WBS) has grown to a full time staff of 25 with modern facilities on 130 acres to handle over 350 creatures. WBS is now one of North America's largest facilities for the conservation of birds. Just a few of the mission areas include rehabilitation, propagation and education. WBS' Rehabilitation Department treats over 250 ill and injured raptors annually. WBS has been called upon by government agencies to assist in the rescue of and relocation of smuggled and confiscated animals. The Captive Breeding department of WBS has celebrated many significant achievements since its inception in 1977 including successful efforts to re-establish several endangered species. Finally, the World Bird Sanctuary is dedicated to interactive, entertaining environmental education. Each year, WBS' Education Department reaches over two million people with an important message of survival.

(Announcement continued on Page 6)

St. Louis Audubon Society

Opportunities

and

Announcements

Mission Statement
of
The St. Louis
Audubon Society

Help our community
sustain biological
Diversity through
Nature.

Goals
To foster an aware-
ness and under-
standing
of birds and other
wildlife and their
habitats

To educate our com-
munity so people
can make
informed decisions
about the natural
world.

Audubon Member Featured Artist at Powder Valley Nature Center

Walter Liddell, former St. Louis Audubon Board director and long time Audubon member, will be the March Hallway Exhibit artist at Powder Valley Nature Center. The primary emphasis of the exhibition is birds but other animals, insects, and scenic photographs from 4 continents.

In spring 1957, a pair of robins built a nest in a small pine tree in Walt Liddell's front yard. Over the course of a few weeks, Walt made a complete photographic record of the activities around the nest. Walt shot pictures in both black and white and color. One of his black and white pictures finished in the top 20 in a national competition and one of the color pictures was judged "Slide of the Year" by the St. Louis Camera Club.

Those pictures changed the entire course of Walt's photographic activity. Over the next 50 years, Walt has taken thousands of pictures of birds and other wildlife throughout the world. He has sold pictures to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and national and international publications to illustrate articles on birds and other wildlife. Walt has also exhibited in numerous local galleries.

Walt feels strongly that wildlife of the world should be managed and protected for future generations to enjoy. Because of this belief, he has affiliated himself with local and national organizations dedicated to preserving our wildlife heritage.

Conservation For Critters

The fourth annual Conservation For Critters is scheduled for Sunday, March 11, 2007 from 10 am – 4 pm at Kirkwood Community Center. The goal of Conservation For Critters is to educate the general public about wildlife and conservation by creating a family-oriented event with numerous exhibits, some live animals, and hands-on activities for children. Admission is \$3.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children under 10. For more information call Karen Lucy at (636) 461-2818 or e-mail lucyreptilesrus@aol.com.

Participants include the St. Louis Herpetological Society, *wildlife center of Missouri*, Audubon Society, Geesepeace, Wild Canid Survival Center, World Bird Sanctuary, Friends In The Wild and many more.

Birding Trips: March and April

John Solodar

March 3, Saturday – Busch Woodcock and Owl Prowl. - This trip starts at 5:00 pm and will be lead by Pat Lueders. Lots of folks turn out for this trip and we'll try to find some owls before moving to the woodcock peenting grounds in anticipation of witnessing the courtship flights. Bring a flashlight to help find your way back to your car.

March 24, Saturday – Horseshoe Lake with Riverlands option – We return to our normal 8:00 am starting time for this trip. Horseshoe Lake will be the starting point and focus. Our leader will be Paul Bauer and he will lead the caravan to Riverlands (only 20 minutes away) for those who want to go on. The early migrants should be coming in and we expect to see lots of waterfowl and possibly some shorebirds as well as the usual land birds. Bring a lunch and water if you plan to go on to Riverlands.

April 7, Saturday – Busch Conservation Area/Weldon Springs – Early migrants will be our targets at Busch, the Katy Trail access and possibly the so-called Blue Grosbeak Trail. John Solodar will lead this trip which starting at 8:00 AM. Although this trip is billed as ½ day, there is a good chance that it will go longer as we have a lot of territory to cover. Therefore, if you plan to go with us for the entire trip you should bring water and a lunch.

April 14, Saturday - Castlewood State Park – This is the first of our long string of spring trips aimed at the large group of migrant warblers, thrushes, tanagers, icterids, etc., which come through over the next few weeks. Castlewood always gives us lots of good birds so join Mike Brady and John Solodar on this half day walk at 8:00 AM.

April 20-22, All Weekend – Southeast Missouri Bootheel – This will be an out of town trip to the Bootheel area. Joe Eades and Jim Malone will be the birding leaders and Debbie Trowbridge is organizing the logistics. See the accompanying article in this issue of *Talefeathers*.

April 28, Saturday – Shaw Nature Reserve/Robertsville State Park – Join Connie Alwood for this trip to one of the better birding areas within the St. Louis region. This trip will start at 7:30 AM as we are almost at the peak of warbler migration and want to utilize as much of the morning daylight as possible. The place will be full of spring migrants and Connie is good at finding them. This trip does require a fair bit of walking as we will head out to the trail house (3/4 mile from parking area) and cover some trails from there as well. Lunch will probably be Shaw and then the group will go to Robertsville State Park to look for some Henslow's Sparrows among other birds.

How to get there

Busch Conservation Area - Take U.S.40/I-64 west into St. Charles County. Take Hwy 94 south from U.S 40 about 1 mile to the traffic light at Hwy D. Turn right and go about 1.5 miles to the entrance on the right. Turn left at the "T" to Hampton Lake and meet in the parking lot.

Castlewood State Park - Take Big Bend west from I-270 for about 6 miles. Turn left on Ries Road. Follow Ries to its termination, then turn left into the Park. Park in the lot on the right just before the first small stream.

Horseshoe Lake - Take I-70 east across Poplar Street ridge. Exit at Highway 111 (exit 6) and turn left. Go north a few miles to the Horseshoe Lake State Park entrance (on left). Meet at the first parking lot on the right.

Shaw Nature Reserve - - I-44 west from I-270 to Gray Summit (Hwy 100). Cross over I-44 on Hwy 100. Follow Hwy 100 one block right to the entrance. (Entrance fee \$3.00 per person.)

The Purple Martin
Newcomer to Forest Park: Biology & Management

March Joint Program with the Sierra Club

Mark your calendar for Thursday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m. at Litzinger School.

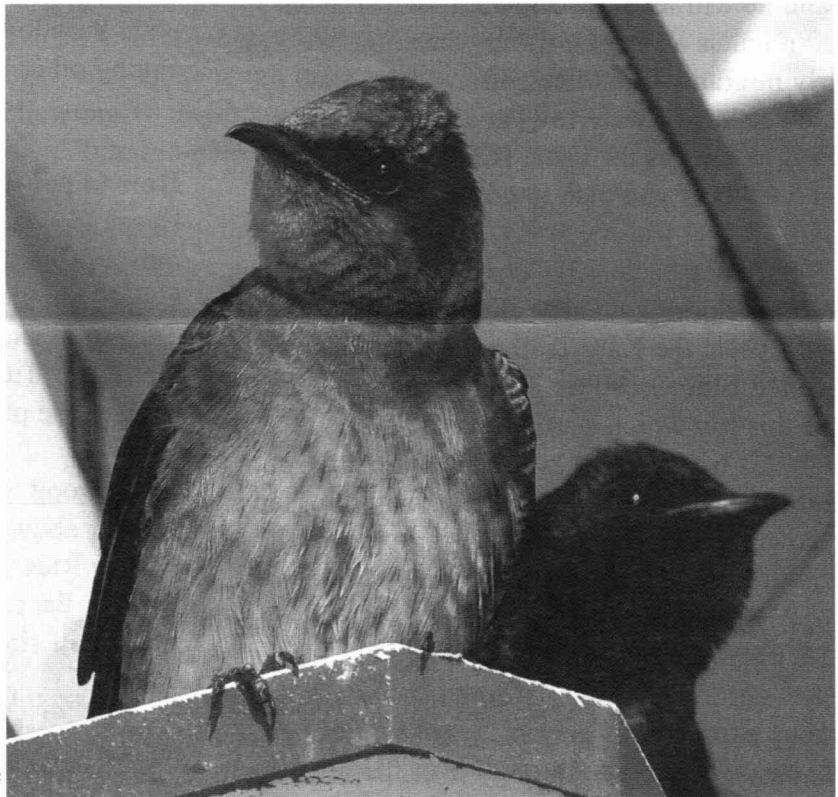
Louise Chambers, Education Outreach Coordinator for the Purple Martin Conservation Association, will discuss the history of North America's largest swallow, its biology and management techniques and challenges. Purple martins are the only wild bird species that is nearly totally dependent on human-provided housing. While there are many significant populations throughout Missouri, especially in the south, St. Louis city birds have been restricted to the Botanical Garden and a nearby parking lot. Finally, this past year eight pairs were attracted to new housing in Forest Park. Collectively, the city population of purple martins is fewer than 30 pair.

In her talk, Louise will discuss purple martin biology including the history of martins undergoing a behavioral shift from nesting in natural cavities to man-made housing. She will review possible reasons for the species decline in some geographic locations, particularly parts of the Midwest, and she will outline steps for attracting martins and helping a colony to thrive. Putting up housing for martins is a unique American tradition, yet one that will need to be fostered for the species to flourish. Whether or not you have the space or interest in being a purple martin "landlord," you're sure to find this talk interesting and informative.

Louise Chambers is a senior staff member of the Purple Martin Conservation Association (PMCA), which is based in Erie, Pennsylvania. She serves on the PMCA's board of directors and is editor of *Update* the association's quarterly magazine. The PMCA — founded in 1987 by James R. Hill, III, now director emeritus — is the only organization devoted exclusively

to the conservation of the purple martin through scientific research, wildlife management techniques and public education.

This program continues a successful tradition of partnership between St. Louis Audubon and the Eastern Missouri Group of the Sierra Club. That means you will have twice the people to meet and twice the opportunities to discover. The meeting is open to all, members or not. Litzinger School is on the east side of Lindbergh, 1 mile south of Hwy 40. Questions, call Mitch Leachman at 314-739-5112.



**Birding trip to Southeast Missouri and the Bootheel
by John Solodar**

We are offering a birding trip to Southeastern Missouri and the Bootheel on the weekend of April 20-22. Joe Eades has lined up a great list of places to visit, and he will be assisted in the birding by Jim Malone. Debbie Trowbridge is contacting the restaurants and motels that we will use. St. Louis Audubon birders have had some great trips to Mingo and Duck Creek in the past and we anticipate a similar experience this time.

The trip will cover Mingo Wildlife Area, Duck Creek, Ten Mile Pond, Big Oak Tree State Park and Otter Slough Conservation Area. Tentative plans are to stay in Sikeston the first night and probably Dexter the second. However things are not set in stone yet so if you sign up for this trip you should not make reservations until Joe and Debbie have everything set up. Joe offers the possibility as well of joining him on Friday, April 20, for some scouting.

A limit of 30 people has been set for this trip. Since the delivery of the Talefeathers too many people is at the mercy of the post office we are trying to level the playing field by saying that reservations will not be accepted until March 5. Joe prefers that reservations be made by e-mail at joseph.w.eades@monsanto.com. If you do not have e-mail access he will accept reservations by phone at 314-

853-0353 but please use e-mail you have it.

The advance fee for the trip is \$10. After your reservation is accepted you may mail your payment to Joe Eades at 517 Willow Lane Kirkwood, MO 63122. He says that, "Any amount over that necessary to cover incidental expenses will be a donation to St. Louis Audubon, to potentially facilitate future out-of-town field trips. I have some other ideas about such trips."



Birding for Beginners

St. Louis Audubon Society Board Members, Lynne Breakstone and Jim Wilson, will lead a two hour workshop to introduce beginners to bird watching. This class is being in Forest Park at the Dennis and Judith Jones Education and Visitor Center and there is no fee to participate. The workshop will take place indoors with a short bird walk outside, weather permitting.

Topics will include:

How to begin to identify birds and learn more about them, How to use field guides and which guides are useful, How to use and choose binoculars (you can bring yours along), Helpful hints for enjoying birds in the park or in your own backyard.

Saturday, March 3rd, 2007

1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

**Dennis & Judith Jones Visitor and
Education Center
5595 Grand Drive in Forest Park
Learning Lab Classroom**

Kindly RSVP to Anne Grossmann at
(314) 367-7275, Ext. 14

or email to:

agrossmann@forestparkforever.org.

Class will be limited to 25 people

Lynne Breakstone is a Professor of French at Washington University and Jim Wilson is the E. Desmond Lee Foundation Endowed Professor of Experiential & Family Education at the University of Missouri St. Louis & Forest Park Forever.

Ornithologist Walter C. Crawford, Jr., received his bachelor's degree from Southeast Missouri State University and a master's degree from Mississippi State University. After joining the staff of the St. Louis Zoological Park, he was recognized by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums for the first captive breeding of the Bateleur Eagle, and he was cited for the first captive breeding of the Mottled Owl. With the blessing and support of the Zoo's Director Emeritus, Marlin Perkins, in 1977 Crawford founded what eventually came to be known as the World Bird Sanctuary. In 30 years of work at the Sanctuary, Walter has received honors and recognition from a diverse array of organizations, including the Conservation Federation of Missouri, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County, the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Further, he was a founding member of the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRA) and is director of the World Environmental Education Center (WEEC), headquarters for an exciting combination of rescue, rehabilitation, research and education.

We hope you will share our excitement about spending an evening with Walter C. Crawford, Jr. and learning about his life's work — the propagation, rescue, rehabilitation, and preservation of birds, especially birds of prey.

6:00 p.m.—Business Meeting

6:30 p.m.—Open Bar Begins Service

7:00 p.m.—Dinner Service

The business meeting is open to all, but only current SLAS members will be allowed to vote in the election of the Board of Directors.

Feel free to skip the business portion and arrive during the social hour that starts at 6:30 p.m.

The cost is just \$25 per person. Reservations are required—please use the form below.

Space is limited, so please register by April 1st to insure you can enjoy this wonderful evening!

Orlando Gardens is at 8352 Watson Road in Webster Groves, approximately one mile south on Elm from the I-44/Elm Avenue exit, left (East) on Watson Road to the General Grant Shopping Center. The Center is on the south side of Watson Road, mid-way between S. Elm and S. Laclede Station Road—1 mile east of the Crestwood Mall.

Annual Dinner Registration Form

By April 1st, please mail this form or a copy with payment to:

Mitch Leachman

2728 Lakeport Drive

Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Make checks payable to **St. Louis Audubon Society**.

Name(s): _____

\$25.00 x _____ = _____ Total Enclosed

Need a **Book** for the Beach?

I wasn't sure what I wanted to take with me to Jamaica: a trashy novel, historical novel, self-help, or best-seller. I wasn't taking anything work related. What I did finally take was thought provoking and interesting.

In one afternoon on the beach I read a very small book: ***Birding Babylon: A Soldier's Journal from Iraq*** by Jonathon Trouern-Trend (Sierra Club Books). It was a page turner. Sgt. Trouern-Trend described birding in Iraq and how once you are a birder, you are always a birder, even in the most dire of Circumstances. It amazed the author and the reader how life goes on around man's follies. The book is composed of excerpts of the blog the Sergeant kept on-line during his tour of duty in Iraq.

The second book I had started before the holidays and finished during vacation: ***How to be a (Bad) Birdwatcher*** by Simon Barnes (Pantheon Books). Although the book is primarily for a beginning birder, it was full of how-to advice, tales of travels, camaraderie, and connections to both birds and life. It was laugh out loud funny and touching when Mr. Barnes wrote of teaching his father to watch birds.

So, if you are planning future sojourns to escape this long winter, I recommend both books. Both equally satisfying for this traveler.

—Mary Dueren



Picture
submitted
by
Dave
Faintich

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Tale Feathers

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St. Louis Audubon Society 2006 - 2007

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St. Louis Audubon Society Chapter Only Membership Application

Note: To receive the National Audubon Magazine, contact the National Audubon Society for an additional application.

Your membership dues will go directly to the St. Louis Audubon Society. Your membership dues support local issues that are important to you, programs at our general meetings, and *Tale Feathers*, our newsletter.

For questions about membership, contact Cathy Devine or Anne Rankin Horton or Mary Dueren (contact information listed on inside back page)

Chapter Only Dues are \$15.00 per year and cover all members living at the same address.

Please complete the form, enclose a check payable to SLAS, and mail to:

St. Louis Audubon Society, P.O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, Mo. 63122.

PLEASE PRINT

Circle One.

NEW

RENEWAL

NAME _____

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